NHRC's Direction on Bonded Labour

2446. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has recently urged Government to identify the sections where bonded labour is still existing and to take steps to eliminate the same;

(b) what is the extent of the bonded labour still obtaining in the country; and

(c) the steps being taken to wipe out bonded labour from sectors where it is still being perpetrated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) to (c) The Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission has addressed a letter on 29 August, 1995 to the Chief Ministers of States and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations urging them, *inter-alia*, to undertake a special survey in certain occupations to find out prevalence of bonded labour and take speedy and definite steps for their elimination.

(b) According to information received from the State Governments, a total number of 2,51,424 bonded labourers have been identified and released.

(c) The Government has been advising the State Governments from time to time to conduct periodic surveys through their existing agencies for identification of bonded labourers, to cause wide publicity to create awareness about the evils of bonded labour system to promptly look into compalints/newspaper reports about its existence and to ensure proper rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Vigilance Committees have been set up in almost every district/sub-division in the States from which incidence of bonded labour has been reported. State Governments have been advised to set up a State level Standing Committee on bonded labour under the Chairmanship of the Minister incharge to monitor, evaluate and coordinate, the activities of the District/Sub-Divisional level Vigilance committees. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been taken up since 1978-79 under which financial assistance is given to the State Governments on matching grant (50:50) basis for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers.

Process of Manufacturing Pyrazinamide

2447. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process for manufacture of Pyrazinamide, an anti-TB drug from DAMN, is heighly toxic and hazardous;

(b) whether it is a fact that the units manufacturing Pyrazinamide from DAMN have been asked to close down recenly by state pollution control boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to ban the production of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) The information is being compiled and will be placed on the table of the House.

Measure to Check Deteriorating condition due to Lapse of TADA

2448. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Punjab Police Chief and senior police Officers from other States have emphasised that the efficiency of the police force in dealing with the terrorists has been severly undermined by the lapse of TADA;

(b) whether it has also come to the notice of Government that ISI of Pakistan was exploiting the situation caused by the lapse of TADA and